

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW FLOWER-PECKER FROM PALAWAN ISLAND,
PHILIPPINES.

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A number of years ago the United States National Museum received four specimens of a *Piprisoma* that had been collected in Palawan by the Menage Expedition. These were put aside by the author for further study and then neglected. They had been originally identified as *Piprisoma modestum* by the collector and are indeed close to that species. I can not find that this species has ever been credited to the Philippines. The four bird skins evidently represent an un-named species, which may be known as:

***Piprisoma diversum*, sp. nov.**

Type.—Male, U. S. National Museum, number 315,811, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippine Islands, December 10, 1891. Collected by D. C. Worcester and F. S. Bourns.

Similar to *Piprisoma modestum modestum*, but brighter above (near citrine Ridgway rather than dark citrine); bill broader at the base and the lower mandible more swollen; white on the inner web of the outer tail feathers at the tip much reduced. Wing 66; tail 34; culmen 8; width of bill at base 7.

Remarks.—The above four males have been compared with three (two males and one female) specimens of *Piprisoma modestum modestum* from Trang, Peninsular Siam, one female of *Piprisoma agile agile* from Assam, one female of *Piprisoma agile everetti* from Borneo, and seven specimens of *Piprisoma aeruginosum* from various islands of its Philippine range. Both specimens of the two forms of *Piprisoma agile* represented in my series have no supra-loral light line from the bill to the eye. In *Piprisoma modestum*, *Piprisoma aeruginosum*, and *Piprisoma diversum* there is a light supra-loral streak from the bill to the eye, though faint in *modestum*. In

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the swollen bill and the reduced white on the outer tail feathers *Piprisoma diversum* resembles *Piprisoma aeruginosum*, but the latter is brownish olive above and more heavily streaked below.

The four males from Palawan measure: wing 63-66 (65); tail 33-35 (34); culmen 8-9 (8.2); width of bill at base 7-7.5 (7.1); the two males and one female from Trang: wing 55-63 (59.2); tail 25.5-32 (29); culmen 8.5-9 (8.7); width of bill at base 6 (in all three).